

Thrift Depositor Protection Ovsgrt. Bd.

§ 1506.1

minimum standards of competency, experience, integrity, and fitness and that only persons meeting such minimum standards:

(1) Enter into any contract with the RTC; or

(2) Are employed by the RTC or otherwise perform any service for or on behalf of the RTC.

(c) The standards established by the RTC in its policies and procedures issued pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section shall, at a minimum, prohibit from service on its behalf any person who has:

(1) Been convicted of any felony;

(2) Been removed from, or prohibited from participation in the affairs of, any insured depository institution pursuant to any final enforcement action by any appropriate Federal banking agency;

(3) Demonstrated a pattern or practice of defalcation regarding obligations to insured depository institutions; or

(4) Caused a substantial loss to Federal deposit insurance funds.

(d) The RTC shall prescribe policies and procedures which require that any offer (not subject to the regulations at 12 CFR part 1506 or 12 CFR part 1606), and any employment application submitted to the RTC, include a list and description of any instance during the preceding 5 years in which the person or company under such person's control defaulted on a material obligation to an insured depository institution; and such additional information as the RTC determines to be necessary.

[55 FR 5358, Feb. 14, 1990; 55 FR 11719, Mar. 29, 1990]

PART 1506—QUALIFICATION OF, ETHICAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR, AND RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION BY INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

Sec.

1506.1 Authority, purpose, and scope.

1506.2 Definitions.

1506.3 Contractors' Conflicts Committee and Outside Counsels' Conflicts Committee.

1506.4 Qualification of contractors.

1506.5 Disqualification of contractors.

1506.6 Organizational conflicts of interest.

1506.7 Personal conflicts of interest.

1506.8 General standards for independent contractor activities.

1506.9 Limitations on concurrent and subsequent activities.

1506.10 Communications with RTC employees.

1506.11 Confidentiality of information.

1506.12 Source selection information.

1506.13 Use of consultants.

1506.14 Use of information.

1506.15 Rescission of contracts.

1506.16 Resolution Trust Corporation as conservator.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1441a(a)(13) and (p)(1)(B), (3), (6), and (7).

SOURCE: 55 FR 5350, 5356, Feb. 14, 1990, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1506.1 Authority, purpose, and scope.

(a) *Authority.* This part is adopted pursuant to section 21A(p) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as added by section 501 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 ('FIRREA'), Pub. L. 101-73, section 501, 103 Stat. 183, 363 (to be codified at 12 U.S.C. 1441a(p)); section 21A(b) (4) and (12) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act, as added by section 501 of FIRREA, Pub. L. 101-73, section 501, 103 Stat. 183, 363 (to be codified at 12 U.S.C. 1441a(b) (4) and (12)); and section 11(d) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended by section 212 of FIRREA, Pub. L. 101-73, section 212, 103 Stat. 183, 222 (to be codified at 12 U.S.C. 1821(d)). Pursuant to those sections, the Oversight Board and the Resolution Trust Corporation are promulgating rules and regulations applicable to independent contractors governing conflicts of interest, ethical responsibilities, the use of confidential information consistent with the goals and purposes of titles 18 and 41 of the United States Code, and minimum standards of competence, experience, integrity, and fitness.

(b) *Purpose.* These regulations seek to ensure that contractors meet minimum standards of competence, integrity, fitness, and experience and are held to the highest standards of ethical conduct in performing services for the RTC. They are intended to prevent:

(1) The direct or indirect use of information gained through performance of a contract with the RTC for personal

gain not contemplated by the contract; and

(2) The use of personal relationships or improper influence to gain unfair competitive advantage in obtaining contracts with the RTC.

(c) *Scope.* These regulations apply to contracts for services entered into by the RTC, after the effective date of these regulations, with law firms, accounting firms, investment banking firms, real estate brokers, appraisers, asset managers, property managers, leasing agents, and others performing similar services on behalf of the RTC. Except for contracts for legal, accounting, or investment banking services, contracts with a single contractor attributable to the Corporation, a single conservatorship, or a single consolidated field office, in which payments over the course of one year are not expected to aggregate in excess of \$25,000, are not subject to these regulations. Further, these regulations shall not apply to contracts for day-to-day operations, routine maintenance, or the provision of electronic data processing services for the RTC, and shall not apply to real estate brokers' commissions resulting from nonexclusive offerings.

§ 1506.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *Competing property* means real property which has the same general character as an asset which is the subject of a contract between the contractor and the RTC, is in the same geographic market as defined in the solicitation, and in which the contractor or a related entity has 25 percent or greater ownership interest.

(b) *Contractor* means the individual or entity submitting an offer to perform services for the RTC or having a contractual arrangement with the RTC to perform services but does not include special government employees. For the purposes of §§ 1506.6, 1506.7, and 1506.8, *contractor* includes a subcontractor.

(c) *Defalcation* means:

(1) Any default on any obligation to pay principal or interest to an insured depository institution; or

(2) Any act that was intended to cause a loss to an insured depository institution; or

(3) A borrower's entering into a loan agreement with an insured depository institution, the making of which was an unsafe or unsound action of the institution on the basis of facts that the borrower knew or should have known, and the borrower's default on such loan in the amount of \$50,000 or more.

(d) *Default* means:

(1) A delinquency of 90 or more days as to payment of principal or interest on a loan or advance from an insured depository institution; or

(2) A failure to comply with the terms and conditions of a contract with the FDIC, the FSLIC, or the RTC, or an insured depository institution, other than a loan or advance.

(e) *FDIC* means the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in its corporate or receivership capacity or as conservator of an insured depository institution.

(f) *FSLIC* means the former Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation and the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation Resolution Fund.

(g) *Loss* means:

(1) An obligation as to which there is a continuing legal claim that is owed to an insured depository institution, or to Federal deposit insurance funds, FSLIC, or to the RTC that is 12 months or more delinquent as to principal or interest; or

(2) An obligation to pay an outstanding, unsatisfied, final judgment based on any legal theory in favor of any insured depository institution, Federal deposit insurance funds, FSLIC, or the RTC.

(h) *Management official* means those individuals within a contractor's organization who have substantial responsibility for the direction and control of the contractor's policies and operations. With respect to partnerships that have a management committee or executive committee which has been given such responsibilities, this means only the members of those committees and, if no such committee exists, this means each of the general partners.

(i) *Material obligation* means an obligation which, if not satisfied, would cause a loss of \$50,000 or more.

(j) *Organizational conflict of interest* means a situation in which:

(1) Performance of a previous contract with the RTC or the Oversight Board, by the contractor or a related entity, may provide the contractor with an unfair competitive advantage in obtaining this contract; or

(2) The contractor or any related entity has an interest or relationship which could adversely affect the contractor's ability to perform under the contract or to represent the RTC.

(k) *Pattern or practice of defalcation* means:

(1) There are two or more instances of defalcation as defined in § 1506.2(c)(1) with respect to which there are continuing legal claims in an aggregate amount in excess of \$50,000; or

(2) There are two or more instances of defalcation as defined in § 1506.2(c)(2) or § 1506.2(c)(3).

(l) *Key employee* means an individual who participates personally and substantially, through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, or the rendering of advice, in the negotiation and performance of, and monitoring for compliance under the contract with the RTC.

(m) *Personal conflict of interest* means a business or financial interest of an individual, his or her spouse, minor child or other person with whom the individual has a close personal relationship, which could adversely affect the individual's ability to perform under the contract or represent the interests of the RTC.

(n) *Related entity* means a contractor's management officials; any individual or entity that controls or is controlled by or is under common control with the contractor; and any other entity that it controlled by any of a contractor's management officials and that will perform work pursuant to the contract. For purposes of this part, an individual or entity shall be presumed to have control of a company or organization if the individual or entity directly or indirectly, or acting in concert with one or more individuals or entities, or through one or more subsidiaries, owns or controls 25 percent or more of its equity, or otherwise controls its management or policies. A subfranchiser entity shall not be regarded as related to a contractor that is its master franchiser if the subfran-

chiser is independently owned and operated.

(o) *RTC* means, collectively, the Corporation, the Resolution Trust Corporation as receiver, and the Resolution Trust Corporation as conservator. The *Corporation* means the Resolution Trust Corporation acting as an instrumentality of the United States, and not as conservator or receiver for an insured depository institution.

(p) *RTC employee* means a director, officer, or employee of the RTC, including a special government employee, or an employee of any other government agency who is properly acting on behalf of the RTC.

(q) *Source selection information* means information related to a particular contract or contractor selection process, including any such contract or process using procedures other than competitive procedures, which, if not available to the public, and, if obtained by a contractor, would give an advantage in the contract selection process.

(r) *Special government employee* means any employee serving the RTC with or without compensation for a period not to exceed 130 days during any 365-day period on a full-time or intermittent basis.

(s) *Subcontractor* means any individual or entity with whom the contractor has entered or intends to enter into a contract to perform services within the scope of this part in order to fulfill the contractor's obligation under its contract with the RTC.

(t) *Substantial loss to the Federal deposit insurance funds* means a loss of more than \$50,000 to the funds maintained by a Federal deposit insurance agency for the protection of depositors.

§ 1506.3 Contractors' Conflicts Committee and Outside Counsels' Conflicts Committee.

(a) *Designation.* The Board of Directors of the Corporation will designate officials of the FDIC or Corporation as members of a Contractors' Conflicts Committee, which will resolve issues of conflict of interest affecting independent contractors, other than law firms, which arise under these regulations.

The Outside Counsels' Conflicts Committee appointed by the General Counsel of the FDIC, or designee, will resolve issues of conflict of interest relating to law firms.

(b) *Authority.* The Contractors' Conflicts Committee and the Outside Counsels' Conflicts Committee may delegate their authority to resolve conflicts of interest issues which arise under these regulations.

(c) *Referrals to the Board of the Corporation.* The Contractors' Conflicts Committee and the Outside Counsels' Conflicts Committee may make referrals of and recommendations to the Board of Directors of the Corporation with respect to situations in which a Committee determines that a very significant conflict of interest exists but, nevertheless, the contractor should be engaged because the contractor has special expertise not otherwise available or the engagement is otherwise in the best interests of the government.

(d) *Decisions.* Decisions issued either by the Contractors' Conflicts Committee itself, or the Board of Directors of the Corporation itself on matters referred to it by the Contractors' Conflict Committee shall be in writing and shall include statements of the bases for the decisions. Such decisions shall be filed with the Executive Secretary of the Resolution Trust Corporation and shall be made available to the public upon request, with such redactions as may be required to protect the privacy interests of identifiable individuals or confidential business information.

§ 1506.4 Qualification of contractors.

(a) *Requirements.* The RTC shall not enter into a contract with any contractor unless the contractor and its related entities meet minimum standards of competence, integrity, fitness, and experience. In addition to presenting evidence (on a form or forms to be furnished by the RTC for that purpose) of competence and experience, the contractor shall provide a list of any instance during the preceding five years in which there was a default by the contractor or any of its related entities on any material obligation to an insured depository institution, and shall

be required to certify to the following items:

(1) That neither the contractor nor any of its related entities has been convicted of a felony;

(2) That neither the contractor nor any of its related entities has been removed from, or prohibited from participating in the affairs of, any insured depository institution pursuant to any final enforcement action by any federal banking agency;

(3) That neither the contractor nor any of its related entities has demonstrated a pattern or practice of defalcation under § 1506.2(k)(1);

(4) That neither the contractor nor any of its related entities has caused a substantial loss to Federal deposit insurance funds;

(5) That neither the contractor nor any of its related entities, nor any entity that during the past five years was a related entity of the contractor or those who control the contractor, has failed to satisfy an obligation to pay principal or interest at its full value owed to any Federal deposit insurance funds, FSLIC, or the RTC;

(6) That neither the contractor nor any of its related entities are currently in default on any obligation(s) to the FDIC, the FSLIC, or the RTC;

(7) That neither the contractor nor any of its related entities:

(i) Is currently a party to an administrative or judicial proceeding in which any of them is alleged to have engaged in fraudulent activity or has been charged with the commission of a felony or which seeks a remedy that would prevent or materially interfere with its ability to perform on the contract; or

(ii) Is subject, to their knowledge, to an administrative or criminal investigation relating to fraudulent activity or the commission of a felony;

(8) That, during the past five years, neither the contractor nor any of its related entities has been held liable for fraud, dishonesty, misrepresentation, or breach of fiduciary duty;

(9) That neither the contractor nor any of its related entities is currently excluded from Federal procurement or nonprocurement programs;

(10) That neither the contractor nor any of its related entities is subject to

an unsatisfied final judgment in favor of the FDIC, the FSLIC, or the RTC;

(11) That neither the contractor nor any of its related entities is a party to a lawsuit in which the FDIC, the FSLIC, or the RTC is seeking recovery in excess of \$50,000 from the contractor or its related entities; and

(12) That the contractor will not employ any individual or subcontractor to perform work on the contract who:

- (i) Has been convicted of any felony;
- (ii) Has been removed from, or prohibited from participating in the affairs of, any insured depository institution pursuant to any final enforcement action by any federal banking agency;
- (iii) Has demonstrated a pattern or practice of defalcation;

(iv) Has caused a substantial loss to Federal deposit insurance funds; or

(v) Is currently in default on any obligation to the FDIC, the FSLIC, an insured depository institution or the RTC.

Depending upon the nature of the contract, a contractor may be required to submit such additional certifications or information with respect to its activities and those of its related entities as the RTC deems appropriate.

(b) *Procedures.* (1) A contractor who cannot furnish any one or more of the certifications required by paragraph (a) of this section shall provide information which fully explains the circumstances giving rise to its inability to furnish the certification(s). The Contractors' Conflicts Committee, or the Outside Counsels' Conflicts Committee, will determine whether a contractor who cannot furnish any one or more of the certifications required by paragraph (a) of this section is deemed to meet minimum standards of fitness and integrity.

(2) A contractor may consolidate the responses of its related entities in furnishing the certifications required by paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(11) of this section or in providing the information required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section. If a consolidated response is submitted, the contractor shall retain the information obtained from its related entities upon which it relied in preparing the certifications during the term of the contract and for a period of three years following the termination

or expiration of the contract and shall make such information available for review by the RTC upon request.

(3) Before permitting any individual to perform work pursuant to the contract, the contractor shall obtain such information from such individual as will permit it to furnish the certification to comply with paragraph (a)(12) of this section. The contractor shall retain the information upon which it relied in preparing the certification during the term of the contract and for a period of three years following the termination or expiration of the contract and shall make such information available for review by the RTC upon request. Whenever a contractor receives information indicating that the certification or any information upon which it relied in preparing the certification is incorrect in any material respect, the contractor shall promptly notify the RTC and shall not permit the individual to whom the information relates to perform work pursuant to the contract.

(4) Before permitting any subcontractor to perform work pursuant to the contract, the contractor shall determine that the subcontractor has been determined to be qualified to provide services to the RTC.

(c) *Delay.* The RTC, in case of an emergency, to preserve assets of the RTC, may delay implementation of the certification or other requirements of this section.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3205-0001)

[55 FR 5350, 5356, Feb. 14, 1990; 55 FR 11720, Mar. 29, 1990]

§ 1506.5 Disqualification of contractors.

(a) *Mandatory ineligibility.* A contractor shall be deemed not to meet minimum standards of fitness and integrity, and therefore ineligible to contract with the RTC, if the contractor:

- (1) Is an individual and has been convicted of a felony;
- (2) Has been removed from, or prohibited from participating in the affairs of, any insured depository institution pursuant to any final enforcement action by any federal banking agency;

(3) Has demonstrated a pattern or practice of defalcation;

(4) Has caused a substantial loss to Federal deposit insurance funds; or

(5) Is currently in default on an obligation(s) to the FDIC, the FSLIC, or the RTC.

(b) *Discretionary disqualification.* The RTC may determine that a contractor, not subject to mandatory ineligibility pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, nevertheless does not meet minimum standards of fitness and integrity to perform work for the RTC because the past activities of the contractor, or a related entity, warrant such determination.

(c) *Notification of disqualification.* The RTC shall notify the contractor in writing of its determination of mandatory or discretionary disqualification and the reason for such determination not later than 30 days after the determination is made. The RTC will institute procedures to provide appropriate review of discretionary disqualification decisions.

[55 FR 5350, 5356, Feb. 14, 1990; 55 FR 11720, Mar. 29, 1990]

§ 1506.6 Organizational conflicts of interest.

(a) *Information required about the contractor.* A contractor shall provide to the RTC with any bid, proposal, or offer in regard to the rendering of services to the RTC, or if no bid, proposal or offer is submitted, prior to entering into a contract with the RTC, sufficient information to permit the RTC to make a determination with regard to organizational conflicts of interest. The scope of the required information will depend on the nature of the contract and will be determined at the time of solicitation, or prior to entering into the contract. The following information shall be required about the contractor and its related entities:

(1) Relationships of the contractor and its related entities as controlling shareholder of any Federally insured depository institution or depository institution holding company;

(2) The names and addresses of contractor's related entities and a description of each related entity's business;

(3) The names of any contractor's related entities who have been or are di-

rectors or officers of an insured depository institution or depository institution holding company;

(4) A list of all competing property of the contractor and its related entities, if the contract relates to the valuation, disposition, or management of real estate;

(5) Information concerning any other business or financial interest of the contractor, or its related entities, which could adversely affect the contractor's ability to perform under the contract or to represent the RTC;

(6) Any information required to comply with the requirements of § 1506.4(b)(4); and

(7) Any other information about the contractor or its related entities which may be requested by the RTC.

(b) *Certification required.* At the time the contractor provides the information required by paragraph (a) of this section, the contractor shall also provide the following certification:

(1) That no organizational conflict exists as a result of the contractor's interests, relationships, or other RTC contracts;

(2) That the contractor has obtained a certification from each of its related entities that no organizational conflict exists as a result of the related entity's interests, relationships or other RTC contracts; and

(3) That, to the best of the contractor's knowledge, no organizational conflict exists as a result of its related entities' interests, relationships, or other RTC contracts; or, if organizational conflicts exist, provide information:

(i) Detailing those conflicts;

(ii) Requesting a waiver from the Contractors' Conflicts Committee or the Outside Counsels' Conflicts Committee; and

(iii) Including with the request any information it deems appropriate to support the issuance of a waiver.

(c) *Determination required.* Prior to entering into any contract, the RTC must conclude that no organizational conflict of interest exists or that, if such conflict exists, it has been waived by the Contractors' Conflicts Committee or the Outside Counsels' Conflicts Committee.

(d) *Retention of information.* Information obtained by the contractor to

comply with paragraph (a) of this section and to make the certifications required by paragraph (b) of this section shall be retained during the term of the contract and for a period of three years following termination or expiration of the contract and shall be made available for review by the RTC upon request, except to the extent that disclosure is prohibited by law.

(e) *Subsequent notification.* Within 10 days after learning of an organizational conflict of interest, the contractor shall notify the RTC of the conflict of interest and either describe the steps it has taken to eliminate the conflict or request a waiver from the Contractors' Conflicts Committee or the Outside Counsels' Conflicts Committee.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3205-0001)

§ 1506.7 Personal conflicts of interest.

(a) *Contractor's responsibility.* A contractor shall ensure that all management officials and key employees have no personal conflicts of interest.

(b) *Information required.* A contractor shall obtain from its management officials and key employees the following information about the personal, business, and financial relationships of themselves, their spouses, and minor children;

(1) Loans from, employment by, or an ownership interest in the depository institution whose assets are the subject of the contract;

(2) Relationships within the last five years with any other insured depository institution, or depository institution holding company, as an officer, director, or controlling shareholder or employee;

(3) Financial, business, or close personal relationships with any person or entity, who to their knowledge, has an interest in the assets which are the subject of the contract, including information about negotiations or arrangements for future employment with such person or entity;

(4) A list and description of any instance during the preceding five years in which there was a default on any material obligation to an insured depository institution; and

(5) Any other information deemed necessary by the RTC.

(c) *Certification.* The contractor shall determine whether any management official or key employee has an interest which conflicts with responsibilities to the RTC. In making those determinations the contractor may rely on the information obtained pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section, unless the contractor has reason to believe that the information provided is false or inaccurate.

(d) *Disqualification.* The contractor shall disqualify persons with personal conflicts of interests from performing work pursuant to the contract. If appropriate, the contractor may seek a waiver from the Contractors' Conflicts Committee or the Outside Counsels' Conflicts Committee, to allow employment of an individual with a personal conflict of interest on the contract work. In addition, the contractor shall certify to the RTC that all management officials and key employees for whom no waiver is sought, have no business, personal, or financial interest which conflicts with responsibilities to the RTC.

(e) *Contractors' Responsibilities.* The contractor shall establish a procedure to monitor for interests which conflict with the performance of contract responsibilities. The contractor shall require management officials and key employees to provide the required information prior to employment on the contract work, and to update information within 10 days of any change.

(f) *Subsequent notification.* Within 10 days after learning of a management official's or key employee's conflict of interest, the contractor shall notify the RTC of the conflict and either describe the steps it has taken to eliminate the conflict or request a waiver from the Contractors' Conflicts Committee or the Outside Counsels' Conflicts Committee.

(g) *Retention of information.* Information obtained by a contractor from its management officials and key employees pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section shall be retained during the term of the contract and for a period of three years following termination or expiration of the contract and shall be made available for review by the RTC

§ 1506.8

upon request, except to the extent that disclosure is prohibited by law.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3205-0001)

[55 FR 5350, 5356, Feb. 14, 1990; 55 FR 11720, Mar. 29, 1990]

§ 1506.8 General standards for independent contractor activities.

(a) In connection with the performance of any contract and during the term of such contract, a contractor, its key employees, subcontractors, and its related entities, shall not:

(1) Act for the RTC in any matter in which either the contractor, its key employees, subcontractors, or a related entity, has a conflict of interest unless the Contractors' Conflicts Committee or the Outside Counsels' Committee has determined that such participation is appropriate;

(2) Accept or solicit for itself or others favors, gifts, or other items of monetary value from any individual or entity whom the contractor, its key employee, or subcontractor, knows is seeking official action from the RTC in connection with the contract or has interests which may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of duties to the RTC;

(3) Improperly use or allow the improper use of RTC property, or property over which the contractor, its key employee, subcontractor, or related entity, has supervision or control by reason of the contract, for the personal benefit of any individual or entity other than the RTC; and

(4) Make any unauthorized promise or commitment on behalf of the RTC.

(b) Any individual who acts for or on behalf of the RTC pursuant to a contract or any other agreement shall be deemed a public official for purposes of 18 U.S.C. 201. That statute generally prohibits the direct or indirect acceptance by a public official of anything of value in return for being influenced in, or because of, an official act. Violators are subject to criminal penalties.

(c) Any individual or entity providing information or certification to the RTC

12 CFR Ch. XV (1-1-98 Edition)

is subject to 18 U.S.C. 1001.¹ Upon receipt of information indicating that any individual or entity has violated any provision of title 18 of the U.S. Code or other provision of criminal law, the RTC shall refer such information to the Department of Justice.

§ 1506.9 Limitations on concurrent and subsequent activities.

(a) *Avoiding undue advantage.* The Corporation has determined that contractors performing services for the RTC may have an undue advantage over competitors if they seek additional contracts with the RTC or with third parties which relate to work being performed or already performed for the RTC. To prevent such advantage, restrictions, dependent on the scope of contractual responsibilities, must be imposed on the concurrent and subsequent activities of contractors. Accordingly, the following restrictions shall apply unless waived pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section.

(1) A contractor engaged by the RTC to develop a plan of action concerning a specific insured institution cannot enter into any subsequent contract with the RTC to implement its recommendations or assist others in regard to such contract. This restriction does not bar the RTC, at its discretion, from determining to simultaneously engage a single contractor to both develop and implement a plan of action;

(2) A contractor engaged by the RTC to manage, lease, value, or establish a sales price for an asset or group of assets cannot enter into any subsequent contract with the RTC to purchase that asset or assets or assist someone other than the RTC or FDIC seeking to purchase that asset or those assets from the RTC; and

(3) A contractor cannot act for the RTC in the same particular matter in which it or a related entity has a business or financial interest.

(4) Additional limitations may be imposed on a contractor's concurrent or subsequent activities on a case-by-case basis in situations in which the RTC concludes that a contractor may gain

¹Section 1001 of title 18 generally prohibits the making of any false or fraudulent statement to a federal officer.

an unfair competitive advantage or such concurrent or subsequent activity would raise a significant appearance of impropriety. These additional limitations, when imposed, will be disclosed to the contractor prior to entering into the contract.

(b) *Waivers.* The Contractors' Conflicts Committee and the Outside Counsels' Conflicts Committee may grant waivers from the limitations imposed by paragraph (a) of this section. Circumstances which may be sufficient to warrant the granting of a waiver are:

(1) Evidence of an established effective screening mechanism which would eliminate the likelihood of the contractor obtaining any undue advantage; or

(2) An open or competitive bidding procedure in which the contractor's work for the RTC would provide no competitive advantage.

§ 1506.10 Communications with RTC employees.

(a) *Prohibitions.* During the course of any contractor selection process by the RTC (including any contractor selection process using procedures other than competitive procedures), a competing contractor, its related entities, and employees, representatives, agents, or consultants of the competing contractor or its related entities shall not:

(1) Directly or indirectly make any offer or promise of future employment or business opportunity to, or engage directly or indirectly in any discussion of future employment or business opportunity with, any RTC employee with personal or direct responsibility for that procurement, and competing contractors who wish to discuss employment opportunities with an employee should inquire prior to engaging in such discussions whether the employee has personal or direct responsibility for the contractor selection process in which the contractor will be or is competing;²

²Employees who have no personal or direct responsibility for the selection of a contractor may engage in employment discussions if they disqualify themselves from subsequent participation in any matter in which the contractor has an interest. See 18 U.S.C. 208(a) and 12 CFR 1605.15(b)

(2) Offer, give, or promise to offer or give, directly or indirectly, any money, gratuity, or other thing of value to any RTC employee, except as permitted by rules of the Corporation;³ or

(3) Solicit or obtain, directly or indirectly, from any RTC employee, prior to the award of the contract, any proprietary or source selection information regarding such contractor selection process.

(b) *Competing contractor.* For purposes of this section, "competing contractor" with respect to any contractor selection process (including a process using procedures other than competitive procedures) means any entity that is, or is reasonably likely to become, a competitor for or recipient of a contract or subcontract under such contractor selection process, and includes any other person acting on behalf of such entity.

(c) *Certification.* The RTC shall not award a contract or agree to a modification of a contract unless the officer or employee of the competing contractor responsible for the bid, offer, or proposal submits with it a written certification that:

(1) The officer or employee is aware of the prohibitions of paragraph (a) of this section and, to the best of that officer's or employee's knowledge and belief, he or she has no information concerning a violation or possible violation of paragraph (a) of this section; and

(2) Each officer, employee, agent, representative, and consultant of such competing contractor who participated personally and substantially in the preparation and submission of such bid, offer, proposal, or modification of such contract has certified to the responsible officer or employee that he or she:

(i) Is familiar with and will comply with the requirements of paragraph (a) of this section; and

(ii) Has no information of any violations or possible violations of paragraph (a) of this section and will report immediately to the officer or employee

³Employees of the RTC are prohibited from soliciting or accepting anything of value from anyone having business with the RTC or the FDIC. See 12 CFR 1605.8.

§ 1506.11

of the competing contractor responsible for the bid, offer, or proposal for any contract or modification of such contract any subsequently gained information concerning a violation or possible violation of paragraph (a) of this section.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3205-0001)

§ 1506.11 Confidentiality of information.

(a) *Nonpublic information defined.* Any information identified by the RTC as confidential or provided by the RTC to its attorneys in an attorney-client relationship, shall be deemed to be nonpublic until the RTC determines otherwise, in writing, or the information becomes part of the body of public information from a source other than the contractor.

(b) *Prohibitions.* The contractor and its related entities are prohibited from:

(1) Disclosing nonpublic information to anyone except as required to perform the contractor's obligations pursuant to the contract; and

(2) Using or allowing the use of any nonpublic information to further any private interest other than as contemplated by the contract.

(c) *Contractor's responsibility.* The contractor is required to take appropriate measures to ensure the confidentiality of nonpublic information and to prevent its inappropriate use. Such measures may include:

(1) Notifying all employees, related entities, subcontractors, and other persons to whom the contractor may need to disclose nonpublic information to perform its responsibilities under the contract of the requirement of confidentiality and limitations as to the use of nonpublic information; and

(2) Requiring each person to whom nonpublic information is provided to execute a certification that such person understands the limitations on disclosure and use and will maintain the confidentiality of the information and not use it other than as contemplated by the contract.

(d) The Corporation shall establish a recordkeeping system, which shall serve the purposes of the RTC with respect to the Privacy Act and the Free-

12 CFR Ch. XV (1-1-98 Edition)

dom of Information Act. Materials designated by the RTC shall be eligible for protection under applicable law.

§ 1506.12 Source selection information.

(a) *Prohibition.* During the conduct of any contractor selection process by the RTC, no person who is given authorized or obtains unauthorized access to source selection information regarding the contractor selection process shall knowingly disclose such information, directly or indirectly, to any person other than a person authorized to receive such information by the Executive Director of the Resolution Trust Corporation or his or her designee, the General Counsel of the FDIC or his or her designee, or the RTC's contracting officer.

(b) *Permitted disclosures.* The Executive Director of the Resolution Trust Corporation or his or her designee, the General Counsel of the FDIC or his or her designee, or the RTC's contracting officer, in accordance with internal procedures developed by the Corporation, may authorize persons or classes of persons to obtain access to proprietary or source selection information when access is essential to the contractor selection process.

§ 1506.13 Use of consultants.

(a) *Contingent fees.* Contractors are prohibited from obtaining the services of a consultant or advisor to assist in obtaining a contract with the RTC pursuant to an agreement in which payment of the consultant or advisor would be contingent on the contractor obtaining the contract.

(b) *Disclosure.* When submitting any bid, offer, or proposal to the RTC, a contractor shall include information about payments, agreements to pay or arrangements for obtaining the services (other than engineering, technical, legal, and accounting services) of consultants or advisors to assist in obtaining the contract that were made by the contractor or a related entity.

§ 1506.14 Use of information.

The RTC may utilize any information from any source, including information obtained under this part, in the contractor selection process.

§ 1506.15 Rescission of contracts.

(a) *Circumstances permitting rescission.* The RTC may rescind any contract in its entirety or with respect to a particular assignment if:

(1) There is a failure to disclose a material fact to the RTC;

(2) The contractor would be prohibited from contracting with the RTC by § 1506.5(a);

(3) Any person or related entity has been subject to a final enforcement action by any federal bank regulatory agency;

(4) There is any material change in the representations or certifications provided to the RTC under § 1506.4;

(5) There arises a personal or organizational conflict of interest not waived by the Contractors' Conflicts Committee or the Outside Counsels' Conflicts Committee; or

(6) There is violation of any provision of these regulations.

(b) *Contractor liability.* In those situations in which the RTC determines to rescind a contract, the RTC may seek damages from the contractor or subcontractor whose actions were the basis for the rescission. Moreover, the RTC may pursue any rights and remedies provided by law whether or not it determines to rescind the contract.

(c) *Permanent bar.* Contractors whose contracts with the RTC have been rescinded pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section shall be deemed ineligible to enter into further contracts with the RTC. This ineligibility shall apply to related entities of the contractor, unless determined otherwise by the Contractors' Conflicts Committee or the Outside Counsels' Conflicts Committee. The Contractors' Conflicts Committee or the Outside Counsels' Conflicts Committee may determine if and when a contractor's or its related entity's ineligibility under this paragraph may be lifted, and what, if any, conditions may apply to the lifting of the ineligibility.

(d) *Written submission.* In the case of a rescission or bar that is based upon the ineligibility of the contractor under § 1506.5 (a)(1) through (a)(4) or, if upon another ground, the integrity of a contractor is called in question, the contractor may provide a written submission to the person or entity authorized

to act for the RTC that has taken action to rescind a contract or bar a contractor. Such written submission shall receive prompt consideration, and the contractor shall be informed whether or not the RTC's decision or action will be reconsidered.

[55 FR 5350, 5356, Feb. 14, 1990; 55 FR 11720, Mar. 29, 1990]

§ 1506.16 Resolution Trust Corporation as conservator.

(a) Contractors of an association for which the Resolution Trust Corporation is conservator that are in effect as of the effective date of this regulation or the appointment of the conservator shall not be subject to the requirements of this part. Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, any such contract that may be terminated under its terms without penalty shall be terminated no later than the later of six months from the effective date of this regulation or the appointment of the conservator, and no such contract may be renewed, unless such contract is in or brought into compliance with this part.

(b) During the period that terminates on the later of the date six months from the effective date of this regulation or the date six months from the appointment of the Resolution Trust Corporation as conservator, the conservator may enter into or renew a contract that does not comply with the requirements of this part, or fail to terminate a terminable contract in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section, *provided* that the conservator determines with respect to any such contract that:

(1) It is necessary for the operations of the association; and

(2) No qualified contractor is available to contract for similar services on reasonable financial terms.

The conservator shall not authorize or permit the term of any such contract to extend beyond the close of that period during which the contractor will be necessary for the operations of the association and a qualified contract for similar services on reasonable financial terms is not available, as determined by the conservator.

(c) The Corporation shall establish a reporting system for the contracts described in this section that are not in compliance with the requirements of this part. Reports shall be forwarded to the Board of Directors of the Corporation and the Oversight Board.

PART 1507—MINORITY AND WOMEN CONTRACTING OUT-REACH PROGRAM

Sec.

1507.1 Purpose and scope.

1507.2 Definitions.

1507.3 Organizational responsibilities and staffing.

1507.4 Program components.

1507.5 Promotion.

1507.6 Solicitation and contract award guidelines.

1507.7 Oversight and monitoring.

AUTHORITY: 12 U.S.C. 1441a(a)(13); 12 U.S.C. 1833e.

SOURCE: 56 FR 43998, Sept. 6, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1507.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) Pursuant to the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989, Pub. L. 101–73, sec. 1216(c), 103 Stat. 183, 529 (12 U.S.C. 1833e) this part establishes a minority outreach program to ensure inclusion, to the maximum extent possible, of minorities and women, and entities owned by minorities and women, in all contracts entered into by the Board.

(b) The outreach program established by this part applies only to the contracting activities of the Board. The Board and the Resolution Trust Corporation are separate and distinct entities with different legal characteristics, contracting needs, and programs to perform their respective missions. Accordingly, this program does not apply to the Resolution Trust Corporation.

§ 1507.2 Definitions.

For the purposes of this part:

(a) *Board* means the Oversight Board.

(b) *Minority* means any Black American, Native American, Hispanic American, or Asian American.

(c) *Minority/women owned business or M/WOB* or *M/WOB firm* means a firm that is at least fifty-one percent (51%)

owned and controlled by one or more minority persons and/or women. If the firm is a publicly owned company, minority persons and/or women must own and control at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the firm's voting stock, and the management and daily business operations of the firm must be controlled by one or more minority persons or women.

(d) *Other firm* means a firm that is not a minority/women owned business.

§ 1507.3 Organizational responsibilities and staffing.

The President of the Board shall appoint an Outreach Director, who shall be a full time officer or employee of the Board performing other duties for the Board (including a contracting officer), to establish and implement the program.

§ 1507.4 Program components.

(a) *Identification.* The first component of the program is identifying M/WOB companies capable of providing goods and services to the Board. Because of the limited nature of the Board's contracting, this activity will be limited to the Washington, DC, area. The Board's staff shall:

(1) Obtain lists and directories of M/WOB firms maintained by other governmental agencies and instrumentalities;

(2) Participate in conventions, seminars, and professional meetings attended by M/WOB firms in order to explain Board contracting opportunities and obtain names of potential M/WOB contractors; and

(3) Publicize the Board's desire to obtain names of potential M/WOB firms for contracting in newspapers, trade journals, and other communications media specifically directed to M/WOB firms.

(b) *Solicitation.* An M/WOB firm identified by the staff as a potential contractor will be included in all Board education and information efforts concerning contracting opportunities and in a Board contracting database. The database will be used by the Board's staff to identify firms to be solicited for Board procurements.

(c) *Certification.* A firm tentatively identified as a minority/women owned